

Message Text

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ACTION COA-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 DLOS-06 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00

INT-08 CG-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01

/065 W

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R 271229Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8267

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, DA

SUBJ: ATLANTIC SALMON

REF: A. STATE 244756 B. COPENHAGEN 2714

SUMMARY: ON BALANCE, WE EXPECT THAT DANISH ELECTIONS AND NEW GOVERNMENT WILL NOT LEAD TO SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN DANISH FISHERIES POLICIES OR, SPECIFICALLY, ON ATLANTIC SALMON SITUATION. SELECTION OF STRONG OPPONENT OF 1972 ICNAF HIGH SEAS SALMON FISHING BAN AS MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES MAY, HOWEVER, EVENTUALLY MEAN SOMEWHAT MORE AGGRESSIVE DANISH POSTURING ON SALMON QUESTIONS AS THEY COME UP IN ICNAF AND NEAFC. END SUMMARY.

1. NEW DANISH MINORITY GOVERNMENT, WITH TENUOUS PARLIAMENTARY SUPPORT, WILL FACE GRAVE ECONOMIC DECISIONS IN JANUARY AS FIRST TEST OF ITS VIABILITY AND WILL PROBABLY HAVE LITTLE TIME TO THINK ABOUT RELATIVELY MINOR FISHERIES ISSUES, AT LEAST FOR FIRST FEW MONTHS. EVENTUALLY, SOME PRESSURE TO RECONSIDER ICNAF AGREEMENT ON TERMINATION OF HIGH SEAS FISHERY FOR SALMON MAY COME FROM NEW MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, NIELS ANKER KOFOED. HE, WHILE PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATIVE FROM BORNHOLM, HAD BEEN MOST VOCAL OPPONENT TO ICNAF RESOLUTION LAST YEAR

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AND LED UNSUCCESSFUL FIGHT TO BLOCK LEGISLATION NECESSARY

FOR DANISH ACCEPTANCE OF THE HIGH SEAS SALMON FISHING BAN. HOWEVER, SINCE BORNHOLM FISHERMEN HAVE ALREADY RECEIVED COMPENSATION FOR LOSS OF SALMON FISHERY OFF WEST GREENLAND, WE DOUBT THAT ANY EFFORTS TO REOPEN QUESTION WILL BE SERIOUSLY PUSHED.

2. ON THE GREENLAND LOCAL SALMON FISHERY, WE SUSPECT, AS ALREADY REPORTED REF B, THAT THE DANISH GOVERNMENT MAY WANT TO REOPEN QUESTION OF GREENLAND FISHERMEN'S QUOTA WITH VIEW TO OBTAINING QUOTA ENLARGEMENT. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE NEW DANISH GOVERNMENT WILL WANT, OR BE ABLE TO, PROCEED MORE RAPIDLY TOWARD THIS GOAL THAN INDICATED REF B, NAMELY TO RAISE ISSUE AT 1974 AND 1975 ICNAF ANNUAL MEETINGS WITH HOPE FOR SUCCESS IN OBTAINING ENLARGED QUOTA FOR 1976 FISHING SEASON. THE DEFEAT OF THE TWO PREVIOUS PARLIMENTARY REPRESENTATIVES FROM GREENLAND, KNUD HERTLING AND MOSES OLSEN, SHOULD NOT CHANGE POLITICAL ASPECTS MUCH. THEIR SUCCESSORS, NIKOLAJ ROSING AND LARS EMIL JOHANSEN, WILL UNDOUBTEDLY ALSO PUSH FOR HIGHER QUOTAS; HOWEVER, THEY WILL HAVE LESS LEVERAGE WITH GOVERNMENT SINCE THEIR VOTES WILL NOT BE AS CRUCIAL AS WERE THOSE OF THEIR PREDECESSORS FOR THE PREVIOUS SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT.

3. REGARDING SALMON FISHERY IN NORTH EAST ATLANTIC FISHERIES CONVENTION (NEAFC) AREA, IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT NEW GOVERNMENT WILL WISH TO REVIEW OBJECTIONS DENMARK HAS ALREADY SUBMITTED TO NEAFC COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION CALLING FOR BAN ON SALMON FISHING IN WATERS OUTSIDE NATIONAL JURISDICTIONS. DOMESTIC POLITICAL PRESSURES CONTINUE TO MILITATE AGAINST SUCH ACTION. MOREOVER, KOFOED CAN BE EXPECTED TO BE EVEN MORE FIRMLY OPPOSED TO THE NEAFC RESOLUTION THAN HIS PREDECESSOR. IN ANY EVENT, THE NEW GOVERNMENT WILL PROBABLY WANT TO AWAIT THE OUTCOME OF THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE BEFORE CONSIDERING CHANGE IN THE PRESENT DANISH POSITION ON SALMON FISHING IN THIS AREA.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FISHERIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973COPENH03269
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: COPENHAGEN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973126/aaaaadwd.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION COA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. STATE 244756 B. COPENHAGEN 2714
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12-Sep-2001 by rowellE0>; APPROVED <25-Sep-2001 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ATLANTIC SALMON
TAGS: EFIS, DA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005